

I claim:

1. A method for securing an appointment with a healthcare provider comprising the steps of:  
said healthcare provider uploading an appointment schedule onto a database via a network  
communications system;  
a patient inputting said patient's static information and said patient's current information  
onto said database via said network communications system;  
said patient accessing said appointment schedule;  
said patient selecting an available time period on said appointment schedule for an  
appointment; and  
said patient securing said appointment with an electronic transaction.
2. A system for securing an appointment with a healthcare provider, said system  
comprising:  
a database for storing said healthcare provider's appointment schedule and a patient's static  
information and current information;  
an input means for receiving said healthcare provider's appointment schedule and said  
patient's static information and current information;  
a recording means for storing said healthcare provider's appointment schedule and said  
patient's static information and current information in said database;  
a process means for said patient securing an appointment during a time period, said process  
means carry out the operations of:
  - a) displaying said healthcare provider's appointment schedule to said patient;

- b) allowing said patient to designate said time period;
- c) facilitating an electronic transaction on behalf of said patient to provide for payment for said appointment; and
- d) updating said healthcare provider's appointment schedule such that said time period is no longer listed as available.

3. A method in a computer system for securing an appointment with a healthcare provider, the method comprising:

receiving said healthcare provider's appointment schedule;

storing said healthcare provider's appointment schedule in a database;

receiving a patient's static information and said patient's current information;

storing said patient's static information and said patient's current information in said database;

processing said patient's choice of an appointment time period;

facilitating an electronic transaction by said patient to secure said appointment; and

updating said healthcare provider's appointment schedule.

4. In article of manufacture comprising:

A computer useable medium have computer readable program code means embodied therein for controlling a system for securing an appointment with a healthcare provider, said computer readable program code means in said article of manufacture comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing receiving a patient's static information and said patient's current information;

computer readable program code means for causing storing said patient's static information  
and said patient's current information in said database;

computer readable program code means for causing processing said patient's choice of an  
appointment time period;

5 computer readable program code means for facilitating an electronic transaction by said  
patient to secure said appointment; and

computer readable program code means for updating said healthcare provider's appointment  
schedule.

- 10 5. A method of facilitating securing an appointment with a healthcare provider over a  
computer network comprising the steps of:
- receiving said healthcare provider's appointment schedule;
- storing said healthcare provider's appointment schedule in a database;
- receiving a patient's static information and said patient's current information;
- 15 storing said patient's static information and said patient's current information in said  
database;
- processing said patient's choice of an appointment time period;
- facilitating an electronic transaction by said patient to secure said appointment; and
- updating said healthcare provider's appointment schedule.
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